

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-20 (canceled)

Claim 21 (previously presented) a swim fin apparatus sized to fit about a user's foot, comprising:

- a) a foot-pocket sized to receive a user's foot therein;
- b) at least one securing strap to secure the foot-pocket to a user's foot;
- c) opposing channeling scoops positioned on opposite sides of the foot-pocket; said channeling scoops positioned to channel water during the up-stroke and the down-stroke of the swim fin apparatus;
- d) a flexible blade extends beyond the foot-pocket, to a distal end positioned on the longitudinal axis of the swim fin apparatus, and a tail fin is attached; and
- e) the flexible blade further comprising a curved trailing edge, and the tail fin comprising a complimentary curved leading edge positioned in spaced, complimentary alignment with the curved trailing edge of the flexible blade,

whereby water flowing across the flexible blade passes over the wing-like tail fin to produce additional lift and thrust.

Claim 22. (previously presented) The swim fin apparatus of claim 21, wherein

the tail fin comprising a centrally disposed extended neck portion and comprising left and right symmetrical fin portions, and the tail fin is releasably secured to the distal end of the flexible blade with a means of releasable securement.

Claim 23. (previously presented) The swim fin apparatus of claim 21, wherein the foot-pocket is in the form of footwear, with said opposing channeling scoops positioned on opposite sides of the footwear; said channeling scoops with directional channeling curves positioned to channel water during the up-stroke and the down-stroke of the swim fin apparatus.

Claim 24. (previously presented) The swim fin apparatus of claim 21, wherein said swim fin apparatus has a rigid forebody comprising said foot-pocket with a shaped insole and said channeling scoops, a flexible afterbody comprising said flexible blade and a symmetrical wing-like tail fin and whereby the shaped insole interfaces with the user's foot to assist in walking and swimming and the rigid forebody preferably comprises 40 percent to 80 percent of the length of the swim fin apparatus.

Claim 24 (currently amended) The swim fin apparatus of claim 21, wherein said swim fin apparatus has a rigid forebody comprising said foot-pocket with a shaped insole and said channeling scoops, a flexible afterbody comprising said flexible blade and a symmetrical wing-like tail fin and whereby the

shaped insole interfaces with the user's foot to assist in walking and swimming and ~~the~~ and the rigid forebody preferably comprises 40 percent to 80 percent of the length of the swim fin apparatus.

Claim 25. (previously presented) The swim fin apparatus of claim 21, wherein a plurality of small grooves form a non-stiffening pattern on a substantial portion of the outer surface of the swim fin apparatus whereby small vortices are produced in water to create less drag.

Claim 26. (canceled)

Claim 27. (previously presented) The swim fin apparatus of claim 21, wherein the foot-pocket and the channeling scoops use a releasable securement means to secure the flexible blade and the wing-like tail fin whereby ease of transport, storage and swimming are enhanced.

Claim 28. (previously presented) The swim fin apparatus of claim 21, wherein at least one pin and at least one complimentary aperture are positioned to engage when the portion of the flexible blade is selectively attached to the foot-pocket and the foot-pocket has an insole shaped to fit the sole of a user's foot with different left foot and right foot versions, and whereby these ergonomic insoles would provide padding, drainage and facilitate walking, running, and use.

Claims 29 – 34 (canceled)

Claim 35 (presently amended) A swim fin apparatus sized to fit about a user's foot, comprising:

- a) a foot-pocket shaped to conform to a user's foot, and said foot pocket sized to extend beyond the user's foot to form a flexible blade;
- b) at least one adjustable rear securing strap positioned to releasably secure the user's ~~[[heal]]~~ heel to the foot pocket;
- c) opposing curved channeling scoops positioned on opposite sides of the foot pocket; said channeling scoops positioned to channel water during the up-stroke and the down-stroke of the swim fin apparatus, said curved channeling scoops upwardly inclined from proximity to the user's toes to proximity to the user's heel;
- d) a flexible blade extending from the foot pocket, the flexible blade with an inclined trailing edge extending on each side of the longitudinal axis of the swim fin apparatus; and
- e) a tail fin with an inclined leading edge in spaced alignment in relation to the inclined trailing edge of the flexible blade; whereby water flowing across the flexible blade passes over the tail fin, to increase lift and thrust.

Claim 36 (currently amended) The swim fin apparatus of claim 35, wherein the foot-pocket is in the form of footwear having a toe end and a ~~[[heal]]~~ heel

end, a first side and a second side, with said opposing curved channeling scoops positioned on the first and second sides of the footwear; said curved channeling scoops positioned to channel water during the up-stroke and the down-stroke of the swim fin apparatus, and said curved channeling scoops upwardly inclined from the toe end of the sandal towards the ~~heel~~ heel end of the sandal.

Claim 37 (previously presented) The swim fin apparatus of claim 35, wherein said tail fin has a centrally disposed extended neck portion and left and right symmetrical fin portions is releasably secured to the distal end of the flexible blade with a releasable securement means.

Claim 38 (previously presented) The swim fin apparatus of claim 35, wherein a plurality of small grooves form a non-stiffening pattern on a substantial portion of the outer surface of the swim fin apparatus whereby small vortices are produced in water to create less drag.

Claim 39 (previously presented) The swim fin apparatus of claim 35, wherein the foot-pocket has an insole shaped to fit the sole of a user's foot with different left foot and right foot versions.